

We claim:

1. A method for maintaining, retrieving and evaluating information related to a potential business transaction between parties in different jurisdictions using electronic versions of rules from such jurisdictions that apply to the transaction comprising the steps

5 of:

submitting a query to a database that stores the electronic versions of the rules, the query containing information about the type of transaction, the product involved in the transaction and the jurisdictions involved in the transaction;

10 retrieving jurisdictional rules from the database that are related the specified product, transaction type and jurisdiction;

15 formulating a response based on the retrieved information, said response containing general and specific jurisdictional rules that apply to the transaction and specific requirements for the transaction; and

sending the response to the entity submitting the query.

20 2. The method as described in claim 1 wherein said formulated response further contains a profile of the potential transaction described in the submitted query, said profile including information on product type restrictions, product tariffs and product quantity limits.

25 3. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising before the query submitting step, the step of registering for access to the electronic versions of rules from jurisdictions and the search and retrieved mechanisms that will respond to a submitted query.

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4. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising after said response sending step, the steps of:

- retrieving the formulated query response at the customer location;
- evaluating the query response;
- 5 determining whether the query response is satisfactory to the customer;
- reformulating the original query, when the determination is that the response is not satisfactory; and
- resubmitting the reformulated query to a database that stores the electronic versions of the rules, the query containing information about the type of transaction, the
- 10 product involved in the transaction and the jurisdictions involved in the transaction.

5. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising after said response sending step, the steps of:

- retrieving the formulated query response at the customer location;
- 15 evaluating the query response;
- determining whether the query response is satisfactory to the customer; and
- when a new query is desired,
- submitting a new query to a database that stores the electronic versions of the rules, the query containing information about the type of transaction, the product
- 20 involved in the transaction and the jurisdictions involved in the transaction.

6. The method as described in claim 3 further comprising the step of establishing a connection between a customer and the server and associated database containing the electronic version of the rules, regulations and laws from a jurisdiction.

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7. The method as described in claim 6 further comprising the step of determining whether a customer is registered to access the server and database and accepting the customer submitted query when the customer is registered to access the server and database.

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8. The method as described in claim 7 further comprising the steps of:
processing the submitted query and identifying the specific request in the query;
determining whether the query contains sufficient information to enable the
generation of a response of a response to the query; and

5 sending the request for more information to the customer, if the determination is
that there is not enough information to respond to the request in the query.

9. The method as described in claim 7 further comprising the steps of:
processing the submitted query and identifying the specific request in the query;
10 determining whether the query contains sufficient information to enable the
generation of a response of a response to the query; and
generating a response based on the retrieved information, said response
containing general and specific jurisdictional rules that apply to the transaction and
specific requirements for the transaction;

15 retrieving the formulated query response at the customer location;
evaluating the query response;
determining whether the query response is satisfactory to the customer; and
when a new query is desired,
submitting a new query to a database that stores the electronic versions of the
20 rules, the query containing information about the type of transaction, the product
involved in the transaction and the jurisdictions involved in the transaction.

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10. The method as described in claim 7 further comprising the steps of:
processing the submitted query and identifying the specific request in the query;
determining whether the query contains sufficient information to enable the generation of a response of a response to the query; and

5 generating a response based on the retrieved information, said response containing general and specific jurisdictional rules that apply to the transaction and specific requirements for the transaction;

retrieving the formulated query response at the customer location;

evaluating the query response;

10 determining whether the query response is satisfactory to the customer;

reformulating the original query, when the determination is that the response is not satisfactory; and

15 resubmitting the reformulated query to a database that stores the electronic versions of the rules, the query containing information about the type of transaction, the product involved in the transaction and the jurisdictions involved in the transaction.

11. A method for evaluating a potential business transaction between parties in different jurisdictions using electronic versions of rules from such jurisdictions that apply to the potential transaction comprising the steps of:

20 retrieving a submitted query, the query containing information about the type of transaction, the product involved in the transaction and the jurisdictions involved in the transaction;

identifying transaction type, product type and jurisdiction information contained in the query;

25 retrieving information from a database that stores the electronic versions of the rules;

generating a profile of a potential business transaction based on the information and rules retrieved from the database that specifically apply to the potential transaction;
and

30 sending the generated transaction profile to the entity submitting the query.

12. The method as described in claim 11 further comprising the step of storing said generated transaction profile in a knowledge base section of the database.

13. The method as described in claim 12 wherein said stored transaction profile is
5 arranged in the database according to the jurisdiction and product type.

14. The method as described in claim 13 further comprising the step of generating a general transaction profile for a particular country and product, said general transaction profile being stored in the database and retrieved when a query contains the jurisdiction
10 and product type listed in the profile.

15. The method as described in claim 14 said general profile generation step comprises submitting transaction data to a profile generating mechanism, said data comprises a product, a product quantity for the transaction and an export jurisdiction and
15 an import jurisdiction.

16. The method as described in claim 15 wherein the submitted data is from transaction profiles stored in the database.

20 17. The method as described in claim 15 wherein the submitted data is arbitrarily generated in the database.

18. The method as described in claim 14 further comprising the step of retrieving a general transaction profile in response to a submitted transaction query comprising the
25 steps of:

identifying the product that is involved in the transaction;

identifying the exporting and importing jurisdictions;

searching the database for a profile having the identified product, exporting jurisdiction and importing jurisdiction; and

30 returning a general transaction profile that matches the identified product, exporting jurisdiction and importing jurisdiction in response to the submitted query.

19. The method as described in claim 14 further comprising the step of retrieving a general transaction profile in response to a submitted transaction query comprising the steps of:

5 identifying the product that is involved in the transaction;

identifying the exporting and importing jurisdictions;

searching the database for a profile having the identified product, exporting jurisdiction and importing jurisdiction; and

generating a transaction profile based on the submitted query.

10 20. A system for maintaining, retrieving and evaluating a potential business transaction between parties in different jurisdictions using electronic versions of rules from the jurisdictions that apply to the transaction comprising:

a database that contains information about rules, regulations and laws relating to particular geographical jurisdictions;

15 a server in communication with said database, said server being capable of retrieving information from said database, evaluating the retrieved information and generating a response to a query based on the retrieved and evaluated information; and

a user interface capable of submitting a query from a user to said server.

20 21. The system as described in claim 20 further comprising multiple servers and databases.

22. The system as described in claim 20 further comprising a uniform format converter and uniform format database.

25 23. The system as described in claim 22 further comprising in said uniform format database, a knowledge base section.

24. The system as described in claim 20 further comprising in said database contains 30 a list of products, which could be involved in a potential business transaction.

25. The system as described in claim 23 wherein said rules can be arranged in the database such that each product in said product list has a corresponding set of rules, regulations and laws for a particular jurisdiction.

5 26. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for maintaining, retrieving and evaluating information related to a potential business transaction between parties in different jurisdictions using electronic versions of rules from such jurisdictions that apply to the transaction comprising:

instructions for submitting a query to a database that stores the electronic versions
10 of the rules, the query containing information about the type of transaction, the product involved in the transaction and the jurisdictions involved in the transaction;

instructions for retrieving rules from the database that are related the specified product, transaction type and jurisdiction;

instructions for formulating a response based on the retrieved information, said
15 response containing general and specific rules that apply to the transaction and specific requirements for the transaction; and

instructions for sending the response to the entity submitting the query.

27. The computer program product as described in claim 26 further comprising before
20 the query submitting instructions, instructions for registering for access to the electronic versions of rules from jurisdictions and the search and retrieval mechanisms that will respond to a submitted query.

28. The computer program product as described in claim 26 further comprising after said response sending instructions:

instructions for retrieving the formulated query response at the customer location;
instructions for evaluating the query response;

5 instructions for determining whether the query response is satisfactory to the customer;

instructions for reformulating the original query, when the determination is that the response is not satisfactory; and

10 instructions for resubmitting the reformulated query to a database that stores the electronic versions of the jurisdictional rules, the query containing information about the type of transaction, the product involved in the transaction and the jurisdictions involved in the transaction.

29. The computer program product as described in claim 26 further comprising after 15 said response sending step, the steps of:

instructions for retrieving the formulated query response at the customer location;
instructions for evaluating the query response;

instructions for determining whether the query response is satisfactory to the customer; and

20 when a new query is desired, instructions for submitting a new query to a database that stores the electronic versions of the jurisdictional rules, the query containing information about the type of transaction, the product involved in the transaction and the jurisdictions involved in the transaction.

25 30. The computer program product as described in claim 27 further comprising instructions for establishing a connection between a customer and the server and associated database containing the electronic version of the rules, regulations and laws from a jurisdiction.

31. The computer program product as described in claim 30 further comprising instructions for determining whether a customer is registered to access the server and database and accepting the customer submitted query when the customer is registered to access the server and database.

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32. The computer program product as described in claim 31 further comprising: instructions for processing the submitted query and identifying the specific request in the query;

10 instructions for determining whether the query contains sufficient information to enable the generation of a response of a response to the query; and

instructions for sending the request for more information to the customer, if the determination is that there is not enough information to respond to the request in the query.

15 33. The computer program product as described in claim 31 further comprising: instructions for processing the submitted query and identifying the specific request in the query;

instructions for determining whether the query contains sufficient information to enable the generation of a response of a response to the query; and

20 instructions for generating a response based on the retrieved information, said response containing general and specific jurisdictional rules that apply to the transaction and specific requirements for the transaction;

instructions for retrieving the formulated query response at the customer location;

instructions for evaluating the query response;

25 instructions for determining whether the query response is satisfactory to the customer; and

when a new query is desired, instructions for submitting a new query to a database that stores the electronic versions of the rules, the query containing information about the type of transaction, the product involved in the transaction and the jurisdictions

30 involved in the transaction.

34. The computer program product as described in claim 32 further comprising:

- instructions for processing the submitted query and identifying the specific request in the query;
- instructions for determining whether the query contains sufficient information to enable the generation of a response of a response to the query; and
- instructions for generating a response based on the retrieved information, said response containing general and specific jurisdictional rules that apply to the transaction and specific requirements for the transaction;
- instructions for retrieving the formulated query response at the customer location;
- instructions for evaluating the query response;
- instructions for determining whether the query response is satisfactory to the customer;
- instructions for reformulating the original query, when the determination is that the response is not satisfactory; and
- instructions for resubmitting the reformulated query to a database that stores the electronic versions of the rules, the query containing information about the type of transaction, the product involved in the transaction and the jurisdictions involved in the transaction.

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35. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for evaluating a potential business transaction between parties in different jurisdictions using electronic versions of rules from such jurisdictions that apply to the potential transaction comprising:

5 instructions for retrieving a submitted query, the query containing information about the type of transaction, the product involved in the transaction and the jurisdictions involved in the transaction;

instructions for identifying transaction type, product type and jurisdiction information contained in the query;

10 instructions for retrieving information from a database that stores the electronic versions of the rules;

instructions for generating a profile of a potential business transaction based on the information and rules retrieved from the database that specifically apply to the potential transaction; and

15 instructions for sending the generated transaction profile to the entity submitting the query.

36. The computer program product as described in claim 35 further comprising instructions for storing said generated transaction profile in a knowledge base section of the database.

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37. The computer program product as described in claim 36 wherein said stored transaction profile is arranged in the database according to the jurisdiction and product type.

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38. The computer program product as described in claim 37 further comprising the step of generating a general transaction profile for a particular country and product, said general transaction profile being stored in the database and retrieved when a query contains the jurisdiction and product type listed in the profile.

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39. The computer program product as described in claim 38 wherein said general profile generation instruction comprises instructions for submitting transaction data to a profile generating mechanism, said data comprises a product, a product quantity for the transaction and an export jurisdiction and an import jurisdiction.

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40. The computer program product as described in claim 38 further comprising the step of retrieving a general transaction profile in response to a submitted transaction query comprising:

instructions for identifying the product that is involved in the transaction;
10 instructions for identifying the exporting and importing jurisdictions;
instructions for searching the database for a profile having the identified product,
exporting jurisdiction and importing jurisdiction; and
instructions for returning a general transaction profile that matches the identified
product, exporting jurisdiction and importing jurisdiction in response to the submitted
15 query.

41. The computer program product as described in claim 38 further comprising the step of retrieving a general transaction profile in response to a submitted transaction query comprising the steps of:

20 instructions for identifying the product that is involved in the transaction;
instructions for identifying the exporting and importing jurisdictions;
instructions for searching the database for a profile having the identified product,
exporting jurisdiction and importing jurisdiction; and
instructions for generating a transaction profile based on the submitted query.

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42. The system as described in claim 20 wherein the connection and communication between the elements in said system can be wireless communication.

43. The method as described in claim 1 wherein said database query is submitted to
30 the database over a wireless connection.